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William J. Kerr

10-6-1902

Letter from E. D. Ball

E. D. Ball

Colorado Agricultural College

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The State Agricultural College.

Department of Zoology and Entomology.

CLARENCE P. GILLETTE, M. S., Professor.
ELMER D. BALL, M. S., Associate Professor.
FRED C. BISHOPP, B. S., Fellow.

Fort Collins, Colorado, Oct. 6-1902.

Dr. W. J. Kerr,

Pres. Utah Agric. Coll., Logan Utah.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter and the College Catalog have been carefully studied. I was especially pleased with the sentiments of the letter; you appear to have much nearer the standards of the best eastern institutions than those of, far too many of, our western Colleges.

While I could not accept your minimum salary offer, (\$1200), still I have decided to apply for the position and will say frankly that above a life-sustaining amount, I consider salary of less importance than opportunity. Thus far in my college career I have spent every dollar above living expenses for either books, material or more education and expect to do so for some time to come. More salary is, therefore, to me more equipment or more education.

In regard to my equipment for the position - I graduated from the science course of the Iowa Agric. College, in 1895, with the degree of B.Sc. having taken every course offered in zoological and botanical work and several special courses, besides my thesis, in the former. After graduation I was employed as half-time Assistant and post graduate student in zoology and entomology for two years. In Nov. 1897 I came here as Asst. in Zoo. and Entomology and finished up my post graduate work so that I received the M.Sc. from Ames in 1898. Two years ago I was granted a nine months leave to study and accepted a fellowship in zoology at Ohio State Univ. where I completed all but one year of the work required for a Ph.D.; taking my work in morphology, embryology and botany. Last spring the Board here promoted me to an Associate professorship which I now hold.

I grew up on an Iowa farm and, owing to the failing health of my father, had entire charge of it for a number of years. My first educational venture outside of the country schools was a course in a Business College. To get money to go on to college I clerked in a store, worked in a post office and taught several terms of country school. Later I taught in Albion Seminary and one year as Prin. of the Carbonado schools.

I have had to make my own way in the world and have "roughed it" a good deal. These varied experiences have proved very helpful to me in many ways and have left me a firm believer in the doctrine that hard work will win - in the end.

I am thirty-two years old, five feet nine inches in height, weigh about 160 lbs., have never used either liquor or tobacco, and am in perfect health. I have been married something over three years. I read German, French, Spanish and Latin sufficiently to be able to freely use the literature in my lines of work.

I taught one class in zoology and gave all the laboratory work in zoology and embryology at Ames. At Ohio Univ. I had charge of two sections of zoology laboratory and assisted in three others. Here I have all the laboratory work in zoology, entomology, physiology and embryology, teach embryology and lecture on evolution. The physiology laboratory of the past has been changed this year to comparative anatomy and histology. Besides this I have taken all the class work whenever Prof.

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Fort Collins, Colorado,

Gillette has been away so that I have all this work well in hand and could start in on your work, at once, on a practical basis.

While at Ames I did a considerable amount of work on the life histories of leaf hoppers and with the chinch bug fungus for the Exp. Sta. My Station work here has been mainly with the codling moth, beet insects and the grasshoppers.

I began the systematic study of the Homoptera while still in college and have published a number of scientific papers along that line. I have by collection, exchange and purchase built up my collection in this order until now it contains more species and many more types than any other american collection of the group. Besides this special collection I have a good representative collection in all the other orders of Insects.

I have as nearly complete a library along the lines of my special work as it has been possible for me to procure; besides this I have a number of general works, almost complete sets of government publications in entomology and large numbers of reports, scientific serials, etc.

I am a member of the Ia. Acad. Science, the Davenport Acad. Nat. Sc., the Entomological Soc. of Washington, the Biological Soc. of Wash., the Assoc. of Economic Entomologists, the A.A.A.S., and the scientific honor society the Sigma Xi. The latest, and to me one of the most gratifying, proofs of my scientific standing was the notice that the editors of the Biologia Centrali Americana, a costly London publication, had sent me the leaf hoppers of the collection to write up for the work.

I mail you under separate cover a recent photograph and copies of my scientific and economic papers to date. I have two scientific papers off to the printer and we are working on two bulletins on the grasshoppers - one to be a list of those occurring in Colorado with life histories food plants etc., and the other an economic treatise on the destructive species.

I have asked those best acquainted with my work in each position to write you in regard to my qualifications, and in doing so I have not confined myself entirely to those above me; sometimes those that have worked with a man or under him tell very different stories from those above.

I have applied for this position with the idea that it was one in which I could afford to stay and build myself up - I should want to get away sometime and complete my work for the Ph.D. but that could, no doubt, be arranged.

Trusting that your Honorable Board will select the man best fitted for the place and only hoping that I may be able to convince you that I am the man I remain, Sincerely yours,

E. W. Ball